

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE 115TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 115th anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Cleveland, Ohio, a spiritual community dedicated to their church, to their neighborhood and to each other.

In the mid 1800's the Bohemian community in Cleveland was thriving. Industrialization and the Civil War created a need for skilled laborers. The original Rockefeller Refinery and the Standard Oil Company were among businesses in the area that recruited immigrants from Europe to work in the refineries. By 1882, it was evident that a new parish needed to be founded to serve the growing number of immigrants from Bohemia and Slovakia in Cleveland. Father Stephen Furdek responded to the need and made the journey from his native Prague to establish Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Subsequent pastors have continued the work of Father Furdek by building a first-rate Catholic School, Renovating the church building and guiding the parish through good times and bad.

The parish family has survived epidemics, wars, the Depression, and changing demographics in the neighborhood. Throughout the years the church, although of Bohemian ancestry, has developed into a congregation of Americans. Parishioners of various races and ethnic backgrounds are united by their common faith and dedication to their community.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in celebrating the 115th anniversary of a truly great and devoted parish, Our Lady of Lourdes.

SELECTIVE AGRICULTURAL EMBARGOES ACT OF 1998

**HON. THOMAS W. EWING**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Selective Agricultural Embargoes Act of 1998, which my good friend Representative CONDIT and myself introduced today. This bill would require the approval of the House and the Senate if the President decided to impose an agriculture-specific embargo on a foreign country. This legislation would not interrupt embargoes currently in place, nor would it impede the President's authority to impose cross-sector embargoes.

The Soviet Grain Embargo is still very fresh in the minds of grain farmers throughout America. In the midst of an already poor overall economy the imposition of the Soviet Grain

Embargo triggered the worst agriculture economy in America since the Great Depression. With the enactment of the Freedom to Farm Act, our farmers are depending more and more on foreign markets for an increasingly significant portion of their income. Our farmers are marketing themselves as reliable suppliers of food and fiber to the world markets. Agriculture has a unique position in the U.S. export portfolio. While the overall trade balance has been in deficit since 1970, U.S. agriculture exports have consistently been in surplus. Our farmers are so productive and so efficient that the American market cannot possibly consume all that is produced. Because our farmers depend on foreign markets more than any other sector of our economy, they have the most to lose should an agriculture embargo be imposed. Congress should have input into any process that threatens the incomes of our farmers. This bill would allow the Congress and the American people a chance to fully debate the merits of any future agriculture-specific embargo. We owe it to our farmers to make sure that they do not bear a disproportionate share of the burden for U.S. foreign policy decisions. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Selective Agricultural Embargoes Act of 1998.

TRIBUTE TO BETH KING

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and praise an individual in my district who has worked tirelessly in her community and devoted much of her time to helping others. This individual continually strives for excellence and is willing to take on any project that comes her way. Her abilities to succeed and make a difference are matched by her compassion and kindness. This dedicated individual is Beth King.

Beth King is a member of the Board of Directors for the Corona Regional Medical Center Foundation and, as such, is co-manager of its gift shop where she oversees purchasing, merchandising, bookkeeping and coordinating the staff of volunteers. She is also very active in the community and participates in several organizations. She is a member of the American Cancer Society Board of Directors, the Settlement House Board of Directors where she serves as treasurer, and the Circle Club Rotary Club where she serves as the Board of Directors member who serves as the Community Service Director.

Her time and energy have been well spent as a dedicated leader in fundraising on several committees, such as the Corona Regional Medical Center Foundation which hosts the Annual Gala, co-chaired by Beth in 1997. For three years, Beth has co-chaired the American Cancer Society Dinner Dance and Auction. These events have become two of the largest in Corona.

I would like to thank Beth for her innumerable contributions in her community. I encourage her to continue in her efforts to make the city of Corona a better place and wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 836, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. Ever since Thomas Jefferson first framed these words together—all men are created equal—men and women of all shapes, sizes, shades and statures have repeatedly maintained, declared, claimed and even believed that this nation is truly “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” Unfortunately, even the most rudimentary historical research would reveal a less favorable assessment on this claim and aspiration of ours. This United States face daily challenges to live up to the Jeffersonian precept that “All men are indeed created equal” and, as in the past it seems we still are not doing what we should. As a second-class American citizen, a delegate, not quite a full Member of Congress hailing from an unincorporated territory with an unresolved political status, I am all too familiar with our nation's failure to live up to the true meaning of this declaration and our democratic creed. Today, I would like to share my views on another member of the club, second-class veterans.

In addition to being the congressional district geographically situated closest to the Republic of the Philippines, Guam and its people share deep cultural and historic ties with the Philippines. The people of Guam, as with Filipinos, have, for hundreds of years, endured occupation, colonialism and second-class treatment by others who were not indigenous to their homeland. Having also suffered through three long years of painful and brutal occupation under the Japanese, we, the people of Guam, understand and appreciate the sacrifices and plight of Filipino World War II veterans.

Comprised mainly of Filipino volunteers and recruits augmented by American soldiers, the defenders of Bataan and Corregidor delayed the Japanese effort to conquer the Western Pacific. This enabled U.S. forces to adequately prepare and launch the campaign to finally secure victory in the Pacific theater of World War II. Filipino veterans swore allegiance to the same flag, wore the same uniforms, fought, bled and died in the same battlefields alongside American comrades but were never afforded equal status. Prior to mass discharges and disbanding of their units in 1949, these veterans were paid only a third of what regular service members received at the time. Underpaid, having been denied benefits they were promised, and lacking proper

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